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In the Specification of the Applicant's disclosure, FIG. 2 is a prior art drawing of a filter for filtering air entering a disc drive through a breather hole. As discussed on page 4, line 27 through page 5, line 16 of the description, the prior art filter is mounted to an inner surface of a disc drive to cover the breather hole. The filter is mounted to the inner surface with adhesive. As pointed out in the description, adhering the filter to the inner surface of a disc drive is problematic. Not only can outgassing from the adhesive cause disc drive failure, but the adhesive can deteriorate over time from humidity, vibration and shock, which can cause filter failure.

The Graeve reference is similar to the FIG. 2 prior art drawing shown and described in Applicant's Specification. The diffusion channel filter assembly 172 of Graeve is mounted to the interior of housing 170 using an adhesive layer 178 (see FIGS. 11 and 12 and col. 8, lines 17-25). A vent hole 180 of the filter assembly is aligned with an aperture 182 in housing 170.

In light of the claim language of claims 1 and 12 reciting "an enclosure configured to house components of the data storage system", it is respectfully submitted that the Graeve reference fails to teach or suggest all of the claim elements of claims 1, 12 and 22. In particular, Graeve fails to teach or suggest an aperture and forming an aperture that extends "between the outer surface and the inner surface of the enclosure, wherein the aperture has a larger cross-section adjacent the outer surface than adjacent the inner surface" as claimed in independent claims 1, 12 and 22 and a filter or depositing a filter "within the aperture" as claimed in claims 1 and 12. Graeve also fails to teach or suggest "mounting means for mounting a filter within the aperture" as claimed in claim 22.

In the response to arguments section of the latest Office Action, the Examiner pointed to strip 120 of FIG. 6a of Graeve as illustrating an aperture extending between the inner surface and the outer surface of the enclosure wherein the aperture has a larger cross section adjacent the outer surface than adjacent the inner surface. It is respectfully pointed out that strip 120 of FIG. 6a represents cup portions that can be used to form diffusion filter assemblies (see col. 7, lines 42-60). FIG. 6a does not illustrate an aperture of an enclosure (that is configured to house components of a data storage system). In the response to arguments section of the latest Office

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Action, the Examiner pointed to filter material 32 of FIG. 1 as illustrating a filter disposed within the aperture. It is respectfully pointed out that filter material 32 is inside a diffusion filter assembly, not an aperture of an enclosure that is configured to house data storage components.

On page two of the Office Action, claims 1-10 and 12-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ueki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,712,887). It is respectfully submitted that the Ueki et al. reference fails to teach or suggest all of the claim elements of independent claims 1, 12 and 22.

Like the Graeve reference, the Ueki reference discloses features that correspond with features (i.e. adhesives used to mount a filter to an interior surface of a disc drive) that were discussed in the Specification in regards to the prior art FIG. 2. A filter F of Ueki et al. is mounted to a container 22 with an adhesive tape 23 to cover a breather hole 21 (see col. 11, lines 1-55). In view of the claim language that defines the enclosure as being configured to house components of a data storage system in claims 1 and 12, it is respectfully submitted that the Ueki et al. reference fails to teach or suggest an aperture and forming an aperture that extends "between the outer surface and the inner surface of the enclosure, wherein the aperture has a larger cross-section adjacent the outer surface than adjacent the inner surface" as claimed in independent claims 1, 12 and 22 and a filter or depositing a filter "within the aperture" as claimed in claims 1 and 12. Ueki et al. also fails to teach or suggest "mounting means for mounting a filter within the aperture" as claimed in claim 22.

In the response to arguments section of the latest Office Action, the Examiner pointed to FIG. 7 of Ueki et al. as illustrating an aperture extending between the inner surface and outer surface of the enclosure wherein the aperture has a larger cross section adjacent the outer surface than adjacent the inner surface and a filter being disposed in the aperture. It is respectfully pointed out that not only is the filter F of Ueki et al. not disposed in breather hole 21, but breather hole 21 does not have a cross-section adjacent the outer surface that is larger than adjacent the inner surface.

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On page two of the Office Action, claims 1-10 and 12-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Boroson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,740,145). It is respectfully submitted that the Boroson et al. reference fails to teach or suggest all of the claim elements of independent claims 1, 12 and 22.

Boroson et al. discloses a desiccant package 50 sealed against a test structure 10. In view of the claim language of claims 1 and 12 that define the enclosure as being configured to house components of a data storage system, it is respectfully submitted that the Boroson et al. reference fails to teach or suggest an aperture and forming an aperture that extends "between the outer surface and the inner surface of the enclosure, wherein the aperture has a larger cross-section adjacent the outer surface than adjacent the inner surface" as claimed in independent claims 1, 12 and 22 and a filter or depositing a filter "within the aperture" as claimed in claims 1 and 12. Boroson et al. also fails to teach or suggest "mounting means for mounting a filter within the aperture" as claimed in claim 22.

In the response to arguments section of the latest Office Action, the Examiner pointed to FIG. 4 of Boroson et al. as illustrating an aperture extending between the inner surface and outer surface of the enclosure wherein the aperture has a larger cross-section adjacent the outer surface than adjacent the inner surface and a filter 50 that is disposed within the aperture. It is respectfully pointed out that enclosure 40 of FIG. 4 is an enclosure of a desiccant package and not an enclosure that is configured to house data storage components. Therefore, filter 50 is not disposed in an aperture of an enclosure that is configured to house data storage components either.

For at least these reasons, the Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner has not established a *prima facie* case of obviousness and independent claims 1, 12, and 22 are in allowable form over Graeve, Ueki et al, and Boroson et al. Further, the Applicant submits that dependent claims 2-10 and 13-21 are also allowable at least based on their relation to claims 1 or 12. Further, the Applicant believes many of these claims to be independently patentable. For example, claim 3 recites "wherein the filter has a first end adjacent the outer surface and a second

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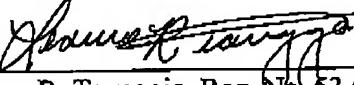
end adjacent the inner surface, the first end having an area greater than the second end". Further, claims 8, 9, 10, 16, 17, and 18 generally recite a seal mounted to the outer surface of the enclosure and a portion of the filter. Additionally, claims 7, 8, 9, 15, 16, and 17 generally recite a label adhered to the outer surface of the enclosure.

In conclusion, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-10 and 12-22 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully requested.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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